Coastal Thermal Power Plant in Kerala

2611. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up coastal thermal power plants in Kerala;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any locations have been chosen therefor; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) Project feasibility reports in respect of coal-based power stations at Kayamkulam (2x210 MW) and at Trikaripur (2x210 MW)—envisaging transportation of coal through coastal shipping—were received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) in August, 1987 and November, 1987 respectively. The estimated cost of the proposed station at Kayamkulam is Rs. 584.81 crores and of the Trikaripur station Rs. 569 crores.

The proposal in respect of a thermal power station at Kayamkulam has been techno-economically appraised by the CEA, subject to confirmation of the availability of water, clearance from the environmental angle being obtained by the KSEB and finalisation of logistics of coal transportation with the railways/ports authorities. The proposal in regard to a thermal power station at Trikaripur could be considered for techno-economic clearance after the statutory requirements, as per Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, have been complied with by the KSEB, necessary inputs such as coal linkage, including transportation arrangements, and availability of water etc., have been tied up and requisite clearances have become available

Ettumanur Telephone Exchange

2612. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for not converting the Ettumanur telephone exchange in Kottayam district of Kerala into an automatic exchange;

(b) whether the growing list of applicants includes accrediated press correspondents waiting since 1983 for telephone connections at Ettumanur; and

(c) by when the exchange is likely to be expanded and the existing list of applicants at Ettumanur exhausted and by when this exchange is to be connected with STD network?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) For conversion of manual exchange at Ettumanur into automatic exchange equipment is required. The equipment supply is expected by end of 1989.

(b) At present NIL.

(c) The present manual exchange is planned for expansion during 1988-89. The provision of STD facility will be considered after the automatisation of the manual exchange which is planned during 1990-91.

Sample testing of Coal

2613. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to utilise the expertise of CFRI in Resource quality Assessment, Washing, Carbonisation, Combustion, Gassification, Briquetting and Pollution monitoring;

(b) what are the reasons that the Coal India Limited gets their samples

tested and analysed in private laboratories instead of at national laboratories of proven expertise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken against the 'Mafias' and their agents in the plant who attempted to sabotage the modification in Sudamdih Washery to check the flow of coal outside the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Losses suffered by Burn Standard Company Limited

2614. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Burn Standard Company Limited which is a Constituent of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited had incurred an accumulated loss to the tune of Rs. 10 crore till—July, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Management of Burn Standard Company has been spending a large sums fighting a court case just to stall the implementation of Government's decision to pay the interim relief to the public sector employees; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Burn Standard Co. Ltd. was incorporated as Government Company with effect from 1-12-1976. The Company which was running into losses for many years turned the corner in 1982-83 and thereafter had been earning operating profits till 1986-87. Its accumulated loss till 31-3-1986 was Rs. 37.50 crores.

(b) Some of the major reasons for losses incurred by the company prior to 1982-83 include acute shortages in the supply of critical inputs in time, under-utilisation of capacity in the engineering units due to non-availability of free supply items from Railways, frequent and sporadic power cuts resulting in the loss of production, shortage of working capital and execution of unremunerative orders.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The interim relief announced by the Government in August 1987 was not payable to the workmen of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. who are governed by the Tripartite Engineering Wage Settlement. However, the Employees Union at Head Office of the Company at Calcutta instituted a case against the company in December, 1987 for the grant of interim relief. The question of grant of interim relief has been resolved with the Tripartite Engineering Wage Settlement on 28-1-1988 for all workmen and clerical/supervisory staff of Central public sector engineering units in West Bengal who were covered under the last Tripartite wage Settlement dated 2-9-1983. The company had to incur legal expense of Rs. 46,000/- (approx) for defending the aforesaid court case.

Representation submitted by Oriental Power Cables Limited

2615. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations were submitted to him by the workers of Oriental Power Cables Limited, Kota, requesting for the take over and merger of the Unit with Hindustan Cables Limited; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Oriental Power Cables